

Message Text

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TAGS: PEPR, NATO, UR, US, XJ
SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA CRITICIZE REMARKS AT NATO
COUNCIL MEETING

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) JUNE 1 SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS IS FULL OF ARTICLES CRITICIZING PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO NATO COUNCIL AND ALLEGED NATO PLANS FOR AFRICAN "EXPEDITIONARY CORPS." MINDEF NEWSPAPER, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, ALSO HAS LENGTHY ARTICLE BY COL. V. KATERINICH IN "BOURGEOIS CLASS STRUCTURE" OF NATO OFFICER CORPS. THIS ARTICLE CITES DAILY TELEGRAPH FOR REPORT ON "COLOSSAL PRESSURE" EXERTED ON PRESIDENT BY GENERAL HAIG OVER NEUTRON WARHEAD PRODUCTION ISSUE.
2. PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IS REPORTED BY PRAVDA'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, G. VASIL'YEV AND, IN KZ, BY TASS WASHINGTON. BOTH ARTICLES CRITICALLY NOTE PRESIDENT'S

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REMARKS ON SOVIET THREAT, ON NEED FOR INCREASED DEFENSE SPENDING, AND, IN LIGHT OF ZAIRE EVENTS, ON DEMAND FOR EXPANDING NATO SPHERE OF ACTIVITY TO AFRICA. BOTH ARTICLES IMPLY CONTRADICTION BETWEEN PRESIDENT'S REMARKS TO NATO COUNCIL AND U.S. INTEREST IN DETENTE. VASIL'YEV NOTES ALLEGED LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR PRESIDENT'S REMARKS IN SPEECHES BY TURKISH P.M. ECEVIT -

"HIGHLY RESTRAINED AND REALISTIC" - AND BRITISH P.M.
CALLAGHAN.

3. PRAVDA AND KZ CARRY TASS ARTICLE (SOMEWHAT ABRIDGED
IN PRAVDA) ON NATO PLANS FOR "EXPEDITIONARY CORPS"
FOR INTERVENTION OUTSIDE OF EUROPE - PARTICULARLY IN
AFRICA. ARTICLE CITES CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR FOR
LONG STANDING INTEREST, OF GENERAL HAIG IN SUCH AN
EXTENSION OF NATO'S SPHERE OF ACTIVITY. THESE PLANS,
SAYS TASS, WERE SUPPORTED BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE
WASHINGTON SESSION. PURPOSE OF SUCH A FORCE, ACCORDING
TO TASS, WOULD BE TO PROTECT INTERESTS OF INTERNATIONAL
MONOPOLIES IN AFRICA AND TO UNDERMINE PROGRESSIVE RE-
GIMES AND NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. ZAIRE EVENTS
ARE CITED AS GOOD EXAMPLE OF WHAT NATO HAS IN MIND.

4. LONGER KZ VERSION OF THIS ARTICLE CITES BRITISH
DAILY MAIL FOR REPORT THAT UK IS KEEPING 8-10 C-130'S
ON ROUND THE CLOCK ALERT FOR POSSIBLE PARACHUTE DROP
INTO RHODESIA SHOULD CIVIL WAR BREAK OUT IN THAT
COUNTRY. (END UNCLASSIFIED)

5. COMMENT: (BEGIN LOU) THE SOVIET MEDIA HAD EARLIER
EXPRESSED MILD CONCERN OVER THE IDEA THAT SOME KIND
OF "INTER-AFRICAN" FORCE MIGHT BE UTILIZED IN
SITUATIONS SUCH AS THAT IN ZAIRE TO PATROL AND STABILIZE
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HOT SPOTS. ALSO, EARLIER THE SOVIET PRESS HAD
CRITICIZED GEN. HAIG AND OTHERS FOR SUGGESTING A
QUICK REACTION FORCE UNDER NATO AUSPICES. THE TONE AND
LENGTH OF THESE ARTICLES IN JUNE 1 CENTRAL PRESS INDICATE
THAT THE SOVIETS ARE EVEN MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE
POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH A "NATO" FORCE COULD ACT IN
AFRICA THAN THEY WERE ABOUT A PURELY "INTER-AFRICAN"
FORCE. MATLOCK

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